

### **REMARKS**

After entry of this Amendment, claims 1-10 are pending in the application. Claim 3 was not previously rejected on the prior art as noted in the Appeal Decision dated August 1, 2006. Accordingly, claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to adopt the suggested language mentioned by the Board of Appeals that the phrase "formed of a single homogenous piece" would have a narrower interpretation than the language previously recited in claims 1 and 5. Claims 6-10 have been added to adopt the suggested language mentioned by the Board of Appeals that the phrase "uniform throughout" would have a narrower interpretation than the language previously recited in claims 1-5. The phrases providing a narrower interpretation clearly distinguish the claimed subject matter from the cited references. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

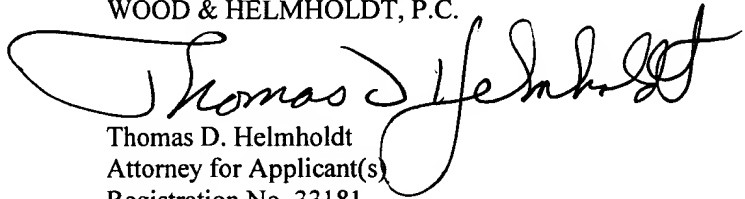
It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment traverses and overcomes all of the Examiner's objections and rejections to the application as originally filed. It is further submitted that this Amendment has antecedent basis in the application as originally filed, including the specification, claims and drawings, and that this Amendment does not add any new subject matter to the application. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment places the application in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is requested.

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application can

be expedited by way of an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG, BASILE, HANLON, MacFARLANE,  
WOOD & HELMHOLDT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas D. Helmholdt", written over the printed name and title.

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TDH/cmp